

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RIO DE 00878 251948Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----043908 251949Z /40
O 251807Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5879
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RIO DE JANEIRO 0878

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP

REF: STATE 048077

1. CONGEN ANXIOUS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE RIO STOP AS RESTFUL AS POSSIBLE AND TO MINIMIZE CEREMONIES AND FUNCTIONS. IN CONTACTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES WE WILL STRESS THIS OBJECTIVE AND, IN THAT CONNECTION, URGE THAT ARRIVAL CEREMONIES BE AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE.

2. GIVEN LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN REFTEL, OUR MOST AUSTERE RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE THAT PRESIDENT AND PARTY, AFTER ARRIVAL CEREMONY, PROCEED DIRECTLY TO HOTEL FOLLOWING A ROUTE THAT WOULD TAKE MOTORCADE THROUGH CENTER OF CITY AND ALONG FULL EXTENT OF BEACH AREA. THIS WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LONGER THAN MOST DIRECT ROUTE (E.E. ABOUT ONE HOUR AND TEN MINUTES AS OPPOSED TO FORTY-FIVE MINUTES), BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE GREATER EXPOSURE TO THE CITY AND ITS SCENERY AND ALSO GIVE GREATER PUBLIC VISIBILITY TO THE PRESIDENT. THE SHORTER, MORE DIRECT ROUTE ALSO PASSES THROUGH TWO LONG TUNNELS AND THIS MIGHT BE A SECURITY CONSIDERATION.

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3. REGARDING MONUMENT WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY, DO NOT KNOW IF PREVIOUS VISITING U.S. PRESIDENTS (TRUMAN AND EISENHOWER) LAID WREATHS BUT DOUBT IF THEIR ACTIONS WOULD SET PRECEDENT FOR TODAY SINCE THEY VISITED WHEN RIO WAS CAPITOL CITY AND, OF COURSE, WHEN MEMORY OF WORLD WAR II ASSOCIATION WAS MORE VIVID THAN TODAY. SECRETARY KISSINGER DID NOT LAY A WREATH AND WE DID NOT SUGGEST IT BECAUSE OF THE VERY BRIEF AND PURELY

PRIVATE CHARACTER OF HIS STOP-OVER IN RIO. THE IDEA OCCURRED TO US FOR THE VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER BECAUSE OF THE DESIRE FOR A MEDIA EVENT.

4. AS REQUESTED, WE WILL DISCOURAGE ANY PROPOSALS REGARDING OTHER ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE EVENING, PENDING DISCUSSION WITH THE ADVANCE PARTY. WE THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE EFFECT UPON BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION IF, DURING HIS STOP-OVER IN BRAZIL'S SECOND LARGEST CITY AND FORMER CAPITOL, THE PRESIDENT DECLINES TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH BRAZILIANS, INCLUDING LOCAL AUTHORITIES, OR TO SAMPLE ANY OF RIO'S CULTURAL OFFERINGS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ATTENDANCE AT A SOCCER GAME WOULD BE USEFUL AS WELL AS ENJOYABLE. WE WILL CHECK TO SEE IF THERE IS AN INTERESTING GAME DURING THE NIGHT HE IS HERE. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE STADIUM IS ABOUT 45 MINUTES FROM THE HOTEL, AND SECURITY WILL HAVE TO BE EXAMINED.

5. WE HAVE NOTED SUGGESTION IN REFTEL, PARA 8, RE MEETING WITH CARDINAL ARNS. APART FROM OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THAT EMBASSY MAY RAISE, WE WOULD OBSERVE THAT RIO HAS ITS OWN PRELATE, CARDINAL SALES, WHO IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT AND INFLUENTIAL CHURCH LEADER, THOUGH LESS PUBLICLY OUTSPOKEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES THAN ARNS. WE WOULD QUESTION THE PROPRIETY OF THE PRESIDENT SEEING THE CARDINAL FROM SAO PAULO IN RIO RATHER THAN CARDINAL SALES. (BRASILIA WILL BE ADDRESSING THIS POINT
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IN CONNECTION WITH PARAGRAPH 8 OF REFTEL.)

6. WILL ADVISE ON HOTEL SITUATION BY SEPTTEL AFTER WE HAVE HAD AUTHORITY TO EXPLORE WITH THE HOTELS CONCERNED.

7. THIS MESSAGE CLEARED WITH EMBASSY BRASILIA.
DEXTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RIODE00878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780088-0457
Format: TEL
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780212/aaaaakdk.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b797b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 48077
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3474072
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b797b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014